

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 5, 7 and 8, and canceled claims 1, 3 and 4 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 5. In particular, claim 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim – namely, claim 4, but was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. See 10/24/06 Office Action, p. 5. By this paper, claim 5 has been amended into independent form to include the features of claim 4, upon which it previously directly depended. In addition, claims 7 and 8 have been amended to depend from now-independent claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5, 7 and 8, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

Claim rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,467,230 to Rovinsky in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,883,235 to Bell. See 10/24/06 Office Action, p. 2. In addition, claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,469,032 to Otake in view of Bell. See 10/24/06 Office Action, p. 3. These rejection are respectfully asserted to be moot in light of the above-discussed cancellation of claims 1, 3 and 4 and amendment of claims 5, 7 and 8.

Amendment dated February 23, 2007

Response to Office Action dated October 24, 2006

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

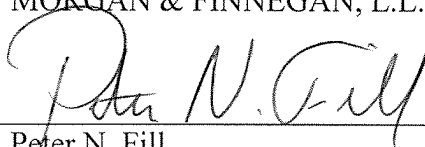
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 5000-5169. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 5000-5169. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: February 23, 2007

By: _____



Peter N. Fill

Registration No. 38,876

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile